

March 27, 1980

Memo to File:

RE: U.S. Steel Corporation  
Desert Mound Mine  
ACT/021/003  
Iron County, Utah

This operation was inspected on March 26, 1980 by Tom Suchoski and Jim Smith of the Division and Mr. Norman Heaton, Mine Superintendent for U.S. Steel. According to Mr. Heaton and Mr. Laurence Ashdown, Chief Engineer of Western Ore Operations for U.S. Steel in Lander, Wyoming (talked with Mr. Ashdown over the phone), the Desert Mound Mine is only in a state of temporary suspension, not permanently closed as indicated by the media. U.S. Steel plans to begin operations again this fall, probably in September. Mr. Ashdown was asked to send the Division a letter stating U.S. Steel's intentions. Mr. Heaton was informed that the Division would continue with the approval process of their Mining and Reclamation Plan so that everything would be ready for tentative approval and publication when they were ready to re-commence operations.

A short site tour was taken of the area. The Desert Mound Pit adjacent to the ore processing plant and loadout facility was abandoned prior to the Act and has about 75 feet of water in the bottom of it. Mr. Heaton indicated that the low grade ore stockpiles around the pit would eventually be picked up, but the rest of the area would not be redisturbed. The Mountain Lion Pit was active up to the time of suspension. This area is across the valley adjacent to Utah International's <sup>own</sup> Canstock Pit and is the major area of concern. The access road has a locked cable across it. Access to the Desert Mound area is also protected in a similar manner.

JWS  
JAMES W. SMITH, JR.  
RECLAMATION SOILS SPECIALIST

JWS/te

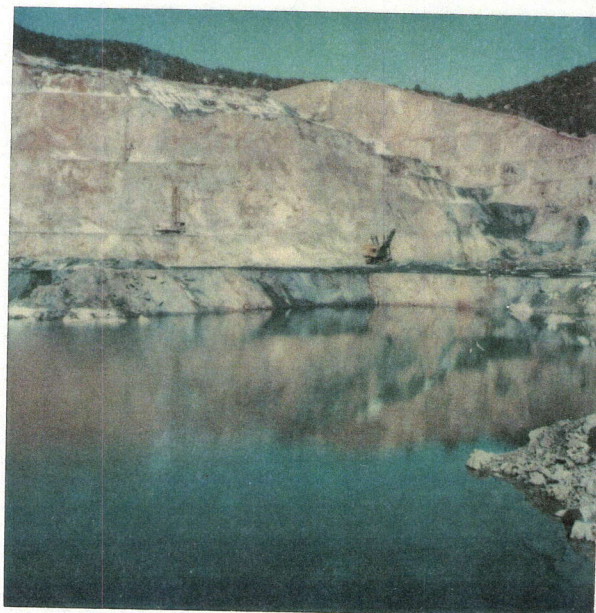




U.S. Steel Abandoned Desert Mound  
Pit (approx. 75' of water) ACT/021/003  
3-26-80



U.S. Steel - Mountain Lion Pit (active  
until recent suspension of operations)  
(approx. 8' of water) ACT/021/003 3-26-80



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